

no one can substantiate what was said against the speaker or against GOPAC on those occasions.

WASTEFUL SPENDING BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND NAFTA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak on two unrelated but very important national issues.

The first is wasteful and ridiculously expensive travel by Federal employees, particularly by certain Cabinet members who should be setting a better example.

Even members of the President's own Party, such as Senator REID of Nevada, have called for Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's resignation.

She has been galavanting all over the world at horrendous expense to the taxpayer.

She has been chartering private jets, when she could easily have flown commercially, and she has consistently been staying in the most expensive hotels in the world.

She spent \$2.6 million on just four of these trips—\$845,000 for a trip to China, \$500,000 for a trip to Pakistan, \$560,000 for a trip to South Africa, and \$720,000 for a trip to India.

No wonder we can't balance the budget.

This is a terrible abuse of taxpayer dollars, but then the easiest thing in the world to do is to spend other people's money.

Another Cabinet Secretary who has been wasting taxpayer funds on travel is Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt.

He has been traveling all over the United States to make political attacks on the Republican budget.

Almost all of his trips should have been paid for by the Democratic National Committee since he has been so blatantly partisan in his statements and press conferences.

And then the trip that really takes the cake is the one 400 Federal employees took to Disney World last month.

The Washington Post said that taxpayers paid "hundreds of thousands of dollars so about 400 Federal employees could go to Disney World and stay at a four-star hotel."

No wonder we have a five trillion dollar national debt.

The Associated Press said these employees were from the National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

These bureaucrats had training sessions on such topics as "The Power of Magic in Shaping History," and "Goofy (and Educational) Nature Songs."

These agencies, plus almost all other Federal offices are screaming today about cuts and shortages of funds.

Well, there is no shortage of money if they can send employees on a trip like this. In fact, it appears that they have such a surplus of funds that they cannot even use good sense in how their money is spent.

Of course, the truth is that almost all Federal agencies are still getting increases. And the best question to ask is what were they getting 10 years ago.

Over that period, inflation has averaged only about 3 percent a year.

Their spending should have gone up by about 1/3 at the most, but almost all these Federal departments and agencies have increased spending at two or three or four times the rate of inflation.

The Head Start Program, for one, has gone up 300 percent in the last 10 years about 10 times the rate of inflation.

The budget for the EPA for 1995 is twice-double-what it was in 1985—a 100 percent increase.

We have allowed our Federal Government to get so big that it is simply out of control.

That is why you have abuses of the taxpayer like these.

Also, we have a civil service system that is so overly protective that Federal bureaucrats know that they can get away with almost anything.

Instead of letting Federal spending increase, but at a slower rate, as we do in the Republican budget, we should really be cutting a few things so the people can keep more of their money.

The second topic I wanted to mention, Mr. Speaker, is the NAFTA Accountability Act.

This act would require that we take another look at NAFTA to see if it is causing more harm than good.

Apparently, in an effort to sell NAFTA 2 years ago, we were given misleading or incomplete information about the Mexican economy.

Just a few days ago in my district in Tennessee, the two largest employers in Tellico Plains announced that they were leaving, one going to Mexico, one to Honduras.

At almost the same time, the largest employer in Etowah, TN announced that it was going into bankruptcy in large part due to NAFTA.

These three companies will mean almost 900 people in my district will lose their jobs. For these two small towns, the impact is devastating.

Now I do not know if the company moving to Honduras is using funds from the Caribbean Basin Initiative but "60 Minutes" and others have reported that we are making loans to American companies to set up branches in Central America and the Caribbean.

Through NAFTA and GATT, and all the money we contribute to the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, and things like the African Development Bank, and the Export-Import Bank, and the Caribbean Basin Initiative, all the money we spend overseas, through the State Department, the Commerce Department, the Defense Department, we seem to be giving our country away.

Then when you add in our direct foreign aid program to all these other giveaways and loans to foreign countries, and then the billions we have spent for nation-building in Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti, and now Bosnia, in addition to the multibillion bailout of Mexico. I repeat Mr. Speaker.

We seem to be giving away our own country and selling out our own people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. POSHARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

A TABLE OF TWO PRESIDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. LEWIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell a story this evening. I will keep it short though it could last for hours. It is called a Tale of Two Presidents, a President in 1992 and 1993 and now a different President in 1993.

Two years ago the President and his top health care specialist, Hillary Rodham Clinton, told the American people again and again, we are talking about beginning to reduce the rate of increase in Medicare from about 11 percent annually to about 6 or 7 percent increase annually.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton told Americans again and again, do not let people tell you these are cuts in Medicare. All we are doing is slowing the rate of increase. That is not a cut.

Remember those words very carefully because my colleagues are about to hear them again. Bill Clinton wanted to use those Medicare savings he was talking about in 1993 to help pay for his Government-run health care scheme.

Now let us move forward to early 1995. Medicare board of trustees reports Medicare part A will be bankrupt in 2002. The trustees, four of whom are Clinton appointees, also say Medicare part B was growing at an unsustainable rate.

So this Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act, which included a plan to